Registered Post and applications received uplo the last date would be treated at par and the waiting list numbers of the applications would be decided by draw of lots. Gas connections will he released according to the seniority list thus prepared.

(e) No, Sir. The present procedure being followed by the Corporation does not represent any departure from the previous practice followed by the Industry in drawing up waiting lists in virgin markets.

(f) By the end of this month.

Hardship to pensioners at Bhiwani Post office

•4182. SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the pensioners belonging to P&T Department and family pensioners of the deceased P&T employees drawing pension from Bhiwani Post Office (Haryana) are not being paid the increased grade relief due from January, 1985 onwards;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what action Government propose to take against the officers responsible for this, due to which the pensioners/family pensioners are facing hardship?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Department of Pension and Pensioners Welfare issued orders in this connection in the middle of July, 1985. The orders have been communicated to all Postmaster-Generals on 2-8-1985. Postmaster-General Ambala has directed to arrange to make payment at once. There is no delay in payment of relief by (he Bhiwani Post Office.

Separate Telephone Corporation*

218». SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA- Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to stat»:

(a) whether the Members of the Telecommunication Board, including the Chairman, who were on the inter-ministerial Committee constituted to study in-depth the concept of the proposed separate Telephone Corporations to manage telephones in Bombay and Delhi are opposed to the idea of separate phone Corporations for each of these two metropolitan cities:

(b) whether Government have exa_ mined the merits and demerits of having one or separate corporations from the point of performance of the
system in these two cities, if so the outcome thereof: and

(c) how long it is likely to take to make a start with the proposed Tele phone Corporation systems in these two metropolitan cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) to (c) The inter-Ministerial Committee has submitted it's report. The Government is examining it. No decision has as yet been taken on the proposal forgetting up a corporate body to develop and operate telephone services in Bombay and Delhi.

Efficient working of telephone system

2184. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA; Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state-

(a) whether since the setting up of the Area Managers' institution in the Delhi Telephone District, any assessment of the working of the telephone system under their charge, prompt redressal of the subsribers' complaints and the letters received from them pointing out laxity on the part

of the local telephone exchange authorities and other cognate matter being replies to quickly, has *been*
made; if so, to what extent;

(b) whether it has become the established practice with some of the Area Managers' Cilices particularly with the AM(S) not to reply to even registered communications addressed to thern by subscribers' and whether the Divisional Engineers under him also followed the game; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take to make this institution more servfce-orlente'd?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) No such formal assessment has been made about the working of the Area Managers. However, Deputy General Manager (Public Relations) has been asked to monitor the functioning of" %ʳarious public grievance cells of Area Managers offices with a view to further improve their functioning.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of the above. However, in addition to the Public Grievance Cells and Customer Service Centres already functioning at the office of the Area Manager, public counters have been shifted on ground floors in South area so that the complaints are attended ;ii a single point there itself.

Defective functioning of telephones in U.P.

2185. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware *f the defective functioning of tele-phones in a large number of places *m* Uttar Pradesh;

(b)' whether the telephone exchanges fn that Stair© maintain any daily record to the defective functioning of telephones;

(c) if so, what is the number of such complaints during each of the last two years; and

(d) if the answer to (b) above be in the-negative, whether Government will issue instructions to Telephone exchanges to maintain such records?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Yes Sir; Functioning of telephones in Uttar Pradesh is monitored daily, weekly and monthly basis at different levels of the department.

(b). Yes, Sir. For large telephone system^, standard complaintg dockets for each complaint is prepared and for smaller exchanges complaints are recorded in registers.

(c) The total number of complainte received during the last two years i.e. 1983-84 and 1984-85 are 6.7S and 7.01 lakhs respectively which means 1.7 and 1-6 complaints per 100 telephones per clay are booked.

id) Question does not arise in view of reply as at (c) above.

Effect of import policy on indigenous machine building industry

2186. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA; Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to *tate:

(a) whether Government have made any exercise to know how far the' new import policy v.ith regard to high-technology machinery under GGL on a large scale will affect the growth of the indigenouft machine building industry and discourage the
J prospective entrepreneurs against modernisation; and

(b) if so, what are the detail* there of and the steps contemplated by the Government in this regard?